



Shaping Public Policies

What is YOUR Role?

**Great Lakes Fisheries
Institute**



*Citizens should not watch the
making of laws or sausage*

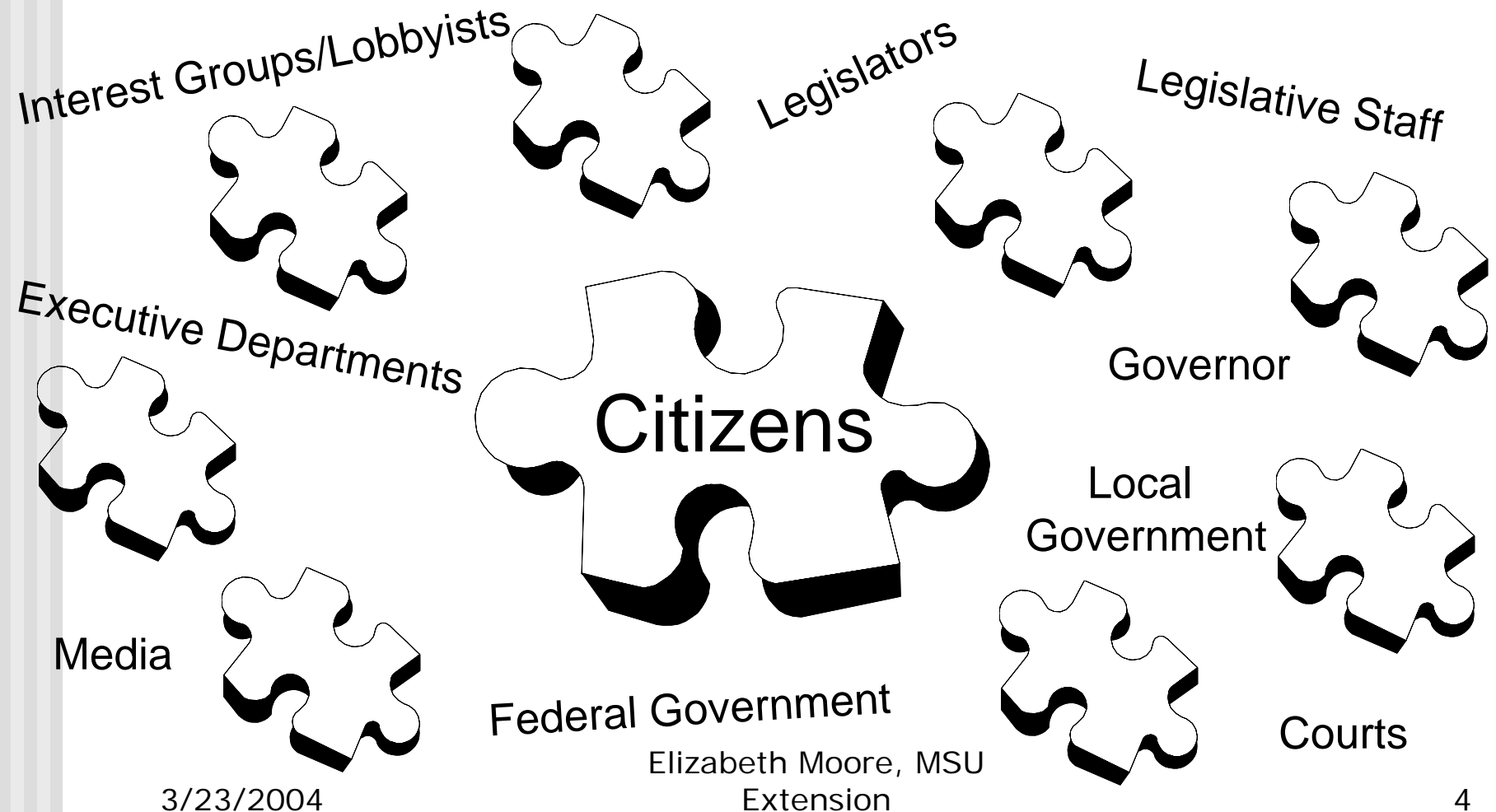


“The big failing of Americans is that they lack an appreciation for the ugliness of democracy.”

People like the idea but don't understand conflict, intense debate, confusion, compromise and imperfection in solving problems

(Hibbing and Theise-Morse)

Puzzle Pieces



Three Interwoven Threads of Public Policy

- Understanding the issue
- Navigating the political process
- Developing strategies for influencing the process

Public policy...

Wide-spread public concern that grows out of accumulated daily events.

Awareness of a gap between what is and what ought to be

Course of action worked out through debate and compromise

Public Policy Issues Involve Controversy

- Differing values
- Differing interests and roles
- Differing ideas

Ideas...float...bump...combine...change...die
...survive

■ Ideas survive

- Technically feasible
- Acceptable values
- Fit budget and legal constraints

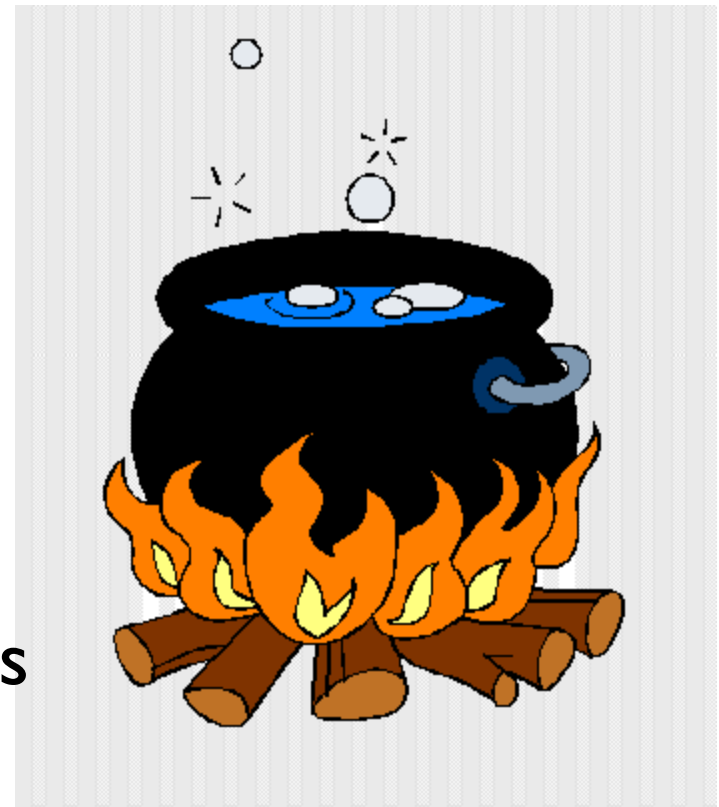
Forces that Shape Policy

Media attention

- A crisis
- Pilot efforts
- Hard work by a group or a coalition
- Changes at other levels of government

Public Policies are Made in a Swirling Cauldron of...

- constituent pressures
- vote counting
- political ambition
- competing ideas
- competing data
- competing interest groups
- media attention



Public Policy Dilemmas

- What is government's role?
- Whose rights take precedence?
- Balancing uniformity vs. meeting specific needs
- Can we have accountability without too much “red tape?”
- Specificity vs. flexibility

Taking Action

- What changes do you want to take place?
- What strategies can you use?
- Who can help you?
- Who will oppose you?
- What resources do you have?

Citizenship...

- Effective involvement that's public spirited, based on ongoing work of problem solving
- It is also messy, difficult, full of ambiguity (*Harry Boyte*)



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